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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Chiron Corporation won't distribute Fluvirin this year** ***Health Department committed to providing flu vaccine to those at greatest risk***

Vancouver, WA—The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a statement yesterday indicating that regulatory officials in the United Kingdom have suspended the license of Chiron Corporation, a major supplier of flu vaccine. As a result, Chiron will not be able to distribute its Fluvirin to any market this year and flu vaccine may be in short supply.

HHS is exploring contingency supplies and the possibility of manufacturing more vaccine for the flu season. Meanwhile, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control is developing and will issue as soon as possible additional guidance about use of the vaccine available in the U.S.

"In light of this development, the Clark County Health Department will do everything we can to make sure that flu vaccine reaches those at greatest risk of developing complications from influenza," said Dr. Justin Denny, Clark County Health Officer. "If all vaccine sites work together, we can get influenza vaccine to the people who need it most. We will continue to monitor the situation and will work with health care providers and pharmacists in the community to coordinate prioritization of vaccine supply based on state and federal guidelines. At this time we do not anticipate a shortage of flu vaccine for very young children."

The following people are considered as having the highest priority for receiving flu vaccinations this season:

- All children ages 6 to 23 months.
- Children 6 months to 18 years of age on chronic aspirin therapy.
- Adults age 65 and older.
- Persons of any age with underlying chronic medical conditions.
- All women who will be pregnant during influenza season.
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- Health-care workers with direct patient care.
- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children less than 6 months old.

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***Flu vaccine to go to those at greatest risk***

The Health Department also recommends that everyone reduce their risk of developing influenza by practicing proper respiratory etiquette as follows.

Cover your cough (cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze).

Wash your hands often.

Stay home if you are sick.

Get a flu shot if you are at high risk of developing complications from influenza.

As new information becomes available we will update the media, the community and health practitioners. We will also provide information on the Clark County Health Department immunization phone line (360) 397-8401 and Web site at <http://www.co.clark.wa.us/health/clinic/immunizations/index.html>.

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